

Application No. 09/486,037

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Culture medium for the specific identification and/or differentiation of *Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* yeast, comprising a chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme of the hexosaminidase family and an acetamide wherein the medium also comprises at least one compound that selectively inhibits the hexosaminidase activity of *C. tropicalis*, wherein said compound is not formamide.

2.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) Medium according to Claim 1, characterized in that it comprises an activator which is specific for the hexosaminidase enzyme of *C. albicans*.

7. (Original) Medium according to Claim 6, characterized in that the activator which is specific for the hexosaminidase enzyme is N-acetylglucosamine.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) Medium according to Claim 1, characterized in that the medium is gelled and comprises, per liter:

- peptones or a mixture of peptones	0.01-40 g
- yeast extract	0.01-40 g
- glucose (source of carbon)	0-10 g
- phosphate buffer (pH between 5 and 8.5)	2.5-100 mM
- 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl-N-acetyl-	
β-D-glucosaminide (Biosynth)	20-600x10 <sup>-6</sup> M
- acetamide	0.01-20 g
- bacterial inhibitor	0-20 g
- agar	11-20 g.

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11. (Previously Presented) Medium according to Claim 9, furthermore comprising N-acetylglucosamine at a concentration of 1.0 g/l.

12. (Previously Presented) Medium according to Claim 10, furthermore comprising formamide at a concentration of 0.5 g/l.

13-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) Microbiological analysis process for detecting and selectively identifying certain species of *Candida* yeasts, which is characterized in that the sample is placed in direct contact with a medium comprising two substrates, a first chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the hexosaminidase family, and a second chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the glucosidase family,

time is allowed for colorations to appear in the medium, and

identification is made, on the basis of the difference in coloration, of the *C. albicans* species from, on the one hand, the *C. guilliermondii*, *C. kefyr*, *C. lusitaniae*, and/or *C. tropicalis* species, and on the other hand, from the other *Candida* species, and of the *C. guilliermondii*, *C. kefyr*, *C. lusitaniae*, and/or *C. tropicalis* species from the other *Candida* species.

21. (Previously Presented) Process according to Claim 20, characterized in that a waiting period of at least 36 hours is allowed when the medium contains no activator or inhibitor.

22. (Previously Presented) Process according to Claim 20, characterized in that a waiting period of at least 18 hours is allowed when the medium contains an activator or an inhibitor.

23. (Previously Presented) Process according to Claim 20, characterized in that *C. albicans*, *C. guilliermondii*, *C. kefyr*, *C. lusitaniae* and/or *C. tropicalis* are identified from other *Candida* species, when the medium contains:

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- a hexosaminidase substrate, and/or
- a glucosidase substrate, and/or
- a hexosaminidase activator, and/or
- a hexosaminidase inhibitor.

24. (Previously Presented) Process according to Claim 20, characterized in that *C. albicans* is identified from *C. guilliermondii*, *C. kefyr*, *C. lusitaniae*, *C. tropicalis* and/or other *Candida* species, when the medium contains:

- a hexosaminidase substrate and a glucosidase substrate, and/or
- a hexosaminidase activator, and/or
- a hexosaminidase inhibitor.

25. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 21, wherein a waiting period of between 36 and 60 hours is allowed when the medium contains no activator or inhibitor.

26. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 25, wherein a waiting period of 48 hours is allowed when the medium contains no activator or inhibitor.

27. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 22, wherein a waiting period of between 18 and 30 hours is allowed when the medium contains an activator or an inhibitor.

28. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 27, wherein a waiting period of 24 hours is allowed when the medium contains an activator or an inhibitor.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) Medium according to claim 1, wherein the medium further comprises formamide.